

It is satisfactory to feel that, though the Government and the Police desert, our juries will sometimes do what they can to provide for our protection. It is certainly unpleasant to be exposed to constant risk of being knocked down by robbers at night, and by falling houses during the day, simply because our Government shamelessly neglects its duty; but it is at all events a consolation to find that juries are as a rule peculiarly sensible of their perils, and, unlike those who should protect them, rather apt to speak their minds out when the occasion serves. It is beginning to be almost time that somebody spoke out, in order if possible to force a weak, and rotten Government, into something like action. We have been asked long enough to wait for the Governor: The Governor, delayeth his coming; and meanwhile the labour of killing us is accurately divided between the daring adventurers whom Sir RICHARD is to exterminate when he comes, and the tottering buildings which we suppose he is to prop up. Sir RICHARD is coming, but in the meanwhile we are told that everything is extremely satisfactory. If robbers knock us down, we hear that they do be according to a fixed, and immovable rule. "Robberies are always more frequent at this season," says our genial Colonial Secretary, and therefore it must follow naturally that they should submit to them as a temporary, but irretrievable visitation of Providence. So, too, we are informed that, if houses come down about our ears, they do so in strict accordance with the law of Gravitation; and the ordinance of the colony of Hongkong. This is the purport of Mr. ALFORD's evidence at the inquest the other day, on the bodies of two persons crushed beneath a fallen verandah. Everything was according to Ordinance, and as an unfortunate result the verandahs came down. If this were an isolated case, one might ascribe it to some unforeseen accident, but, so far from being isolated, it is a thing of constant recurrence in Hongkong, and the jury did well therefore to enter a "partial" protest against a system which works such terrible destruction. They would have done better to protest against the whole thing, the *gens et origo*, which is not the Building Ordinance, but the mischievous practice of appointing young and inexperienced men, like Mr. ALFORD, to posts of vital importance. No blame appears to attach to him, for of course he cannot help being young, and inexperienced, but heavy, almost criminal, blame rests with the Governor who makes such appointments to please his friends, or to gratify his taste for rewarding his protégés. With Mr. DRANE at the head of the police, and Mr. ALFORD at the Inspectorate of Buildings, it is only to be expected that we should be killed and wounded under the auspices of both those Departments. No doubt, the Building Ordinance, like all the rest of the Ordinances, requires a good deal of alteration, and it may be hoped that fuller powers will be forthwith accorded to the SURVEYOR GENERAL. But at the same time that officer should be forthwith provided with a competent deputy. Mr. ALFORD is still young enough to take a less responsible part in the affairs of the office than he does at present, and no doubt with proper training he will gain experience. But we strongly object to his gaining experience at the expense of our heads.

Regarding the Ordinance upon which

everyone seems desirous of fastening the blame of these unfortunate "Accidental Deaths" (a phrase to which jurists must be tolerably well accustomed by this time), it is really not responsible for all this evil. Mr. ALDRON said that the building of these verandahs was cheap and unsatisfactory work, but not of such a nature that he could legally object to it. But the very fact of its being unsatisfactory is sufficient, as we read the Ordinance, to furnish ground for objection. Rule I. and Section II., provides that "The walls of all houses shall be solidly built of bricks or stones throughout." Further, Section XII. makes every building or part of a building a nuisance which is in a ruinous or dangerous condition. Now one thing is clear, that a house or verandah which is originally, as Mr. ALDRON says, cheaply and unsatisfactorily built, and which comes down in the course of three years, cannot have been "substantially built," and must have been from the first, if not in a "ruinous," at least in a very "dangerous" condition. This is proved almost beyond question by the fact that only the verandahs built at the particular time specified by Mr. ALDRON came down, that although only three of the five fell, the others are not safe at this moment, and that whereas the last verandah on one side built at that time collapsed, the one immediately beyond it, not built at that time, remains perfect. But it is clear from what Mr. ALDRON says that he was not aware of the dangerous character of the work. He says, true enough, that he did not think it satisfactory, but the question arises whether, if he had known it to be as bad as it is now proved to have been, he would not have instantly interposed with the powers conferred on him by the Ordinance, and whether, as he did not do so, that neglect goes to show his incompetency for his post. We incline to answer both questions in the affirmative. A single case of this kind would not establish much, but taken in connection with the want of experience which one cannot but ascribe to the present Inspector of Buildings, the conclusion to be drawn from it appears irresistible.

By the steamer *Faiko*, from Manila, the first and second mates of *La Angla*, bound to New York with tea from Whampoa, which was reported lost by telegram, have arrived. The vessel was lost off the Palawan Reef; all hands, however, have been saved.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.
20th September.
Before C. M. Rao.

APPROPRIATION OF A DIVIDED WARRANT.
Mr. Joseph Tianway, of No. 45, Eldon Street, described as a "Turkey Broker," was charged with appropriating a divided warrant.

Mr. W. J. Eds, Secretary to the Union Insurance Company, being sworn, stated that the compradore of the Oriental Bank, by name Fong Awa, was a shareholder in the company and that the said Fong Awa had obtained a divided warrant was made out, and with other sent under sealed cover to the Post Office. On the Monday following, he received information that the said Fong Awa had stopped his payment at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Enquiries at the Post Office failed to elicit any information concerning the issuing of the warrant, but yesterday morning a letter, bearing the name of Fong Awa, and Shanghai Bank brought the divided warrant of Fong Awa (No. 45), and the witness noted that it bore the signature "Fong Awa." Mr. Eds went to Fong Awa's place, and with him; and subsequently he went to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, where he saw the man now in

[illegible]

He also found that a chest, belonging to his master, had been broken open; he then went to his master and gave him information, who returned at once. He discovered the stolen goods in the white jacket and a blanket had been stolen. His master gave him a note to take to the police, and he went to the Central Station, and the Inspector in charge took him to the prison, where he was put in the same cell as the prisoner, and believed that he would go free from the steamer, which would leave at 2 o'clock, and as there was not sufficient time for him to go to No. 10 before the steamer departed, he went to the steamer wharf in quest of the prisoner. He saw the prisoner standing near the wharf. The prisoner on seeing him turned his back towards him, and he followed him until he reached No. 67, and went to him, and was asking him to apprehend prisoner, when the prisoner ran away westward. Turgeant and himself ran after him, and they caught him at No. 87, and threw him. As the prisoner was running he dropped his jacket at him, the same now in Court. He exclaimed he was not a thief and begged the constable to let him go. The constable said it was not possible. He was taken to the Central Station, and the things in Court found on him.

Defendant was committed to the Supreme Court Criminal Sessions.

RACE AND NO LAUNTS

Thirty-one Chinese were brought up by the police, charged with being out without lights or passes, and they were each fined 25 cents, except the twenty-five who were charged with no passes, as it was proved they were forced to be out looking for his child.

ABUSE.

Chow-a-cheng, alias A, summoned the first mate of the S.S. Kiangyin, in that he did on the 10th instant unlawfully assault and beat the complainant when acting in the execution of his duty at the Canton steamer wharf. Complainant testified that he was a coolie, and was employed to look after bad characters, when he was stopped by defendant and pushed back, he was also kicked, but the bruise was now well, he informed the court he was a coolie, and was not a bad character.

Defendant stated it was customary on the arrival of the steamer for a crowd of turbulent coolies to rush on board; he testified that he was ordered to stop them, and he told the complainant attempted to pass through on one side, and he stopped him. He endeavored to pass on the other side, and he again stopped him. He heard him say in the fact he did not know it until he received the summons, and as for kicking him, he distinctly averred that he did not do so.

Both testified to complainant having had a bribe.

Defendant was fined the nominal sum of 50 cents.

REBACH OF POSTAL ORDINANCE.

Mr. L. T. Yokumura was summoned at the

nance of the collector of Stamp Revenue, F. W. Mitchell, Esq., in that he did not on the 14th instant unlawfully pass out of his hands and under his seal a stamp, contrary to the terms of the ordinance in such cases made and provided. The facts of the case, however, showing that the circumstances did not result from the fault of the defendant, the case was dismissed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS":
 SIR,—I am always on the look out for investments giving a fair rate of interest, and I notice in your issue of the 14th instants the report of the Maine Steam Ship and Navigation Company, Limited, to the 30th June 1871, which appears to have been duly passed at the meeting of the Shareholders, reported also in your issue of the 16th instants. As the weekly press of the day were not published and being desirous of learning something about the Company, whose shares are nominally at par, (paying 12 per cent. per annum), and who are to be paid for the first time on the 1st July, I figure, some of course at a discount, I was successful enough to secure a copy of this accounts which are as follows:—

CHINA-SEA, SAIGON, AND STRAITS STEAMSHIP	
COMPANY, LIMITED.	
June 30th, 1871.	
Amount out of Steam Vessels,.....	\$35,000 00
Do. Preliminary Expenses,.....	1,617 50
Do. Balance of Insurance,.....	1,074 00
REMB. of Insurance,.....	

Do.	Cash on hand,	32,495.80
		<u>\$130,635.00</u>
<i>Liabilities.</i>		
June 30th, 1871.		
Amount let off on 6,000 shares at	\$15,	\$90,000.00
Do.	balance of accounts with	...
Do.	General Agents,	1,337.00
Do.	unclaimed dividends,	1,139.50
Do.	balance of Working account,	8,158.50
		<u>\$180,635.00</u>
<i>Working Account.</i>		
June 30th, 1871.		
To Amount disbursements of Steam		\$69,471.66
Agents Commissions,		1,421.12
Petty Expenses for Stamps,
Postages, &c.,		310.93
Not paid to be appropriated as follows		
Dividend at 6 per cent on	\$80,000,	\$5,400.00
Bonus to contributing shareholders, 30 per cent. of the said profit,		782.60
Remuneration to Directors & Auditors		400.00
Amount to be carried to Depreciation and Insurance Fund, 20 per cent. per Article 118,		1,525.20
Balance to be carried forward,		70.70
		<u>8,158.50</u>
		<u>\$79,401.76</u>
<i>Balance Sheet.</i>		
June 30th, 1871.		
By Balance brought forward,	\$	592.21
Earnings of Steamers,		78,040.11
Interest on calls,		617.50
Gain on remittances,
		<u>\$79,401.76</u>
<i>E. Z.</i>		
ALFRED E. ZEEB		
<i>General Agent.</i>		
Hongkong, 28th September, 1871.		
We have audited the above accounts and certify the same to be correct:		
A. L. TRENKLE, Auditor.		
(T. A. N. BAKERMAN.)		
Having perused these accounts with great care, I become convinced, and, therefore, decide to fix the figures in a different formula, as follows:—What I thus arrive at—		
<i>Assets.</i>		
Cost of Steamers		\$95,000.00
Preliminary Expenses,		1,617.17
Cash on hand,		\$32,495.86
Bills Receivable,		447.61
		<u>\$32,943.67</u>
Dividend not paid, \$1,139.50		
Due Agents,	\$1,387.00	
		<u>\$3,476.54</u>
		<u>\$98,158.50</u>
<i>Liabilities.</i>		
Capital,		\$90,000.00
Working Account,		8,158.50
		<u>\$98,158.50</u>
Now, Mr. Editor, I make out that the Company on the 30th June decided (and which was duly passed in meeting as reported by you), to pay a dividend amounting to \$5,400; but the contributors, \$782.60; remuneration to Directors and Auditors \$400; write off depreciation fund \$1,525.20, and carry forward \$70.70, total \$3,158.50; whilst they appear by their accounts to have only \$428.28 actual available assets with which to do it! Have the General Agents lent the money, as they were already \$31,337.00, and, which was the balance of the dividend, claimed, \$1,139.50, to have the cash balance to within \$19.70; again, having paid the Dividend, borne by what becomes of preliminary expenses, as every Company gets rid of as fast as possible. The present shareholders are in the way so far, but are future shareholders to the "preliminaries" docked off their profit. Will you kindly endeavor to explain to me how this is? So far as I am, using my view		

the matter, arrive at a conclusion. I make out that the capital and working account is correct, and by the purchase of the steamship, the estimate of £2000, &c., leaving \$460 09 on hand, as I have shown above. With regard to these three items, the steamer can be replaced, but preliminaries must be written off, and the insurance, I imagine, is an unexpired risk or policy paid for, but existing for a period after the 30th June, and not an immediate asset; therefore, I am not against £18 100, as per appropriation of the working account?

I am, Yours faithfully,
J. S. B. **WILL MAKE IT OUT**

Hongkong, 20th September, 1-71.

COLONIAL FALSAIES.

SIR,—I like "Your paper," and I also like truth. Although we pay £2500 per annum for our newspapers, I do not expect to find the latter quality in the Estimates, but I do expect to find it in a letter signed "Fair Play." Your correspondent of this morning has written the very thing I have been long expecting to see, and it is easy to point out other errors; call it a "distortion," "carping," &c. Now I beg to say that it is not my statement. It was made by the late Mr. A. S. G. and I have not used or copied out the figures from the recently published Estimates, and I have since carefully checked them as they were printed in your paper, and with the exception of the one mentioned against the Education Board, which I have corrected, I have been unable to find any error.

Your correspondent's letter is written in the form of a personal attack on me, and the more so if I had made a personal attack on that gentleman. I have attacked neither him nor any one else. I have simply put down the sums that were put in principle in the Estimates, and the statement of the late Mr. A. S. G. as to tell very severely against an avaricious government, and the autocrat depriving his power to a trienniate, as at present, makes it all the more so. I am sure that the world would have called attention only to those salaries which I consider are too high, but, purposely to avoid this charge, I gave those of the lowest salaries, and I have not said anything which can fairly be called common. I certainly did not mean, and I think my letter cannot fairly be said to insinuate, that none of our officials are as good as Stewart and Douglas, or that work. As to the Postmaster-General, I think he does his, and does it very efficiently indeed, for he manages to get out of the residents at the ports, where he has no jurisdiction, a very large sum of money towards the revenue of the Colony.

"Fair Play" says "the Colony pays £2000 a year, while the Imperial Government pays £2000 a year, and the Government of Hongkong pays £2000 a year." But I find on page 10 of the

the Estimates that the Postmaster-General's salary is put down as £100 under "Fixed Expenditures," and £300 under "Civil List Expenditures." I have been told that he receives £400 per annum, and £100 for travelling expenses. These amounts make £1,000. On page 17 of these accounts £200 as salary to the collector of Stamp Revenue, and £100 as salary to the collector of the Excise, are included. The gentleman, therefore, he receives in all £1,200 per annum. These items appear under the heading "Colonial Estimates—Expenditure detailed," and I stated that it was not correct. I have now seen the account, and I had nothing to do with the revenue papers, but even there I do not find it stated that the Home Government pays any of these amounts, although it is a very easy way to get the item "Contribution from the Imperial Post Office." It is satisfactory to learn that the gentleman referred to pays £25 per month "out of his own pocket for his quarters," although he is not a private gentleman, but a public official. But I fail to find any mention of this in the Estimates, and it would therefore appear that the Treasurer receives and sums and does not account for them. I have not seen the accounts of the Navy and Clerks, and does not addit. The Postmaster-General is known as a particularly good accountant, and I remember that some months ago, in your column, when the accounts of the Postmaster-General were laid before the Registrar-General and Harbour-master. Returns were drawn up, I took occasion to remark that those of the Postmaster-General were the only ones that were not drawn up in public handwriting, and I will beg your

I do not grudge the amount paid to the Postmaster, because I am convinced that we must have a man before us who will say "I cannot see why." "Fair Play" should write a letter to make it appear that he receives a smaller sum than he does.

I agree that "A man who pretends to give accounts, or to pretend to be a public accountant, or to pretend to be a public accountant," as you say with regard to "Fair Play" and the Colonial accountants, "We pay \$200 per annum to Mr. Austin and \$200 to two clerks, making \$1,200 for auditing general accounts, and \$1,200 for auditing the petty cash, making \$2,400 and to do it. I have shown that my figures were correctly copied, but if I had made a mistake I think there would have been a great excuse for it. Fair Play has said that the accounts are found in different portions in the columns headed "Civil," "Fixed," and "Provisional and Temporary." I hope the sums under the latter category may be considered temporary. But what if they are not? They will be fixed, and that then will be additional "temporary" amounts which we will be told are "to be voted." It is this multiplying of offices, and the system of paying for nothing, which has caused me to object to, and which very letter was designed to call public attention to. I begin to think I have understated the case, for if certain items of receipts are not accounted for, it follows that certain other items of receipts have also not been accounted for in the same manner, besides I believe that under some Ordinances, sundry fees accrue to the Colonial Secretary.

By the way, if £260 a year is paid to the Receiver-General's office, why should the same sum not be paid to the Treasurer. The charge of annuities is not worth referring to; for in China it is made against every one who writes in the newspaper. I have stated my case, and leave the public to judge.

Your obedient servant,
Hongkong, 29th September, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Sir,—I don't know whether "W" or "Fair Play" is right about an odd £100 or so with which the latter quarrels, but as to admitting good Heaven! I don't know whether it is right to object to display annuities with reference to the fearful sums of money which are annually dragged out of this unfortunate Colony, merely in order to keep up the glory of a number of persons who are doing nothing at all, except to hear, whenever any one complains at the expense and lamentable inefficiency of our Government, some sleek official come forward and murmur while he pockets his outrageous salary. I don't know whether it is right to object to it, and I am sure, and we want little more of this kind, if we wish to be relieved from any part of our present load, from an arrogant and unconstitutional encroachment, of the power of parliament, and the responsibility resting upon the local viceroy, and, while they learn how to bleed us, insinuate themselves into positions suitable for the practice of that art. Sir, am strongly affected with

HONGKONG, 29th September, 1871.

ANIMUS.

HONGKONG, 29th September, 1871.

THE DISTURBANCES NEAR FOOSHOOH.

We received yesterday a letter from the Rev. Mr. Mahood of Fooshooh, recounting the atrocities made upon him recently, in nearly the same terms as those in which it was narrated in the N. O. Daily News, from which we extracted the letter on Tuesday. It is unnecessary to go into again at length; but we may notice that the district of Ku-cheng has been extremely devoted, and that within the last three years upwards of 120 have embraced the Christian religion. He also states that the riotous demand that he should accompany them to the Office at Ku-cheng, and have "the celebrated," being fully under the impression that they would behead or imprison him. "The people," he says, "are ignorant of our true rights that they think the officers would be any foreigner for the slightest offence."

believes the officials at the Yunnan to be guilty of blame for this, as they try to shift the blame upon the execution of the people by speaking contemptuously of the foreign barbarians.

Mr. Mahood, in the letter just received, notes that the Protestant chapel at Set-paik-tan was also broken in, on the 2nd instant. The roof was struck in, and books, papers, and other things were scattered all over the place, and on the 3rd instant, one of his most devoted Christians was beaten almost to death. He concludes with the following remarks:—

Our Christians have been beaten, robbed, and driven from their homes, and when seeking protection, money has been extorted from them by the servants of the Governor, and such protection is given to the wrongdoers. And all this has been done to men who defy the world to accuse them of a single crime. Our chapels have been thrown in desolation, books and furniture have been scattered all over the place, and the people have a few plans, got up by some malicious cause at Canton, have been circulated at Foo-chow. Prince King wants to banish foreigners from the interior by the subtle device of making them try to do so by brute force. Our treaty rights both to merchants and Missionaries have been violated times without number, and the Government has been deceiving the world by saying to the world, devious to the public that everything is going on remarkably well in the east. The treaties which we have gained as British subjects, and which we have been so anxious to see carried out to be torn from us by false diplomacy. But let us hope that the time may soon come when the eyes of foreign ministers will be opened, to see the necessity for great changes in the policy of the Government, and that the deepest duplicity in concealed under the guise of a friendly smile.

LETTERS BY BARON VON RICHTOFEN TO THE SHANGHAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ON THE PROVINCES OF CHEKIANG AND NGANHWAI.

4.—*Productive power of the Nanshan.*

Those southeastern provinces of China which together constitute the Nanshan, as well with any country of equal extent in regard to the value of the products derived from the cultivation of the soil. They furnish all the exports from China to foreign countries, the northern provinces of China. And the coastal ports from which Chinese produce is exported in any noteworthy extent, viz., Hankow, Kiukiang, Shanghai, Ningpo, Fuchow, Amoy, Canton, are situated at the confines of the Nanshan, and receive their supplies from its navigable rivers. Besides what is needed for the foreign market, it provides the northern provinces of China with some of the most valuable articles, such as sugar, tea, tobacco, hemp, rice, and many others. The

was only, in particular the province of Szechuen, is independent of it, as it produces the same articles for its own use, besides opium, which is not cultivated in the Nanshan, if it is correctly informed.

The tea districts of Szechuen are tea. All these regions which surround its tea to the foreign market are situated in the Nanshan, with one or two insignificant exceptions, and tea can be said to grow well throughout the whole of that hilly country. The axial belt of ranges comprises itself some of the most valuable tea producing districts as, for instance, the Bohs mountains, which are the tea districts of Chekiang to the province of Kwangtung, tea appears to be largely grown on this elevated belt. Northwest of it are situated the green tea districts of Chekiang, southern Nganwei and eastern Kiangsi, while further on are the black tea districts of western Kiangsi, northern Kuanan and southern Hope. There are no apparent tea districts in western Kwangsi, western Kwangsi and Kwetchau, but nothing is known of its successful cultivation in those regions, and the tea of Szechuen even has not found its way to the foreign market, nor does it appear to be consumed by the Chinese outside of the province itself.

The amount of tea produced in the Nanshan is beyond computation, as the consumption by the Chinese cannot be estimated.

inormous as it undoubtedly is, it cannot be estimated. It is said that the three or four hundred millions of Chinese in it by no means so common as is usually supposed. The people of the lower classes in Shansi, Honan, Shantung and other northern provinces know of it only as a luxury, and sip hot water with the same delight as the Myosine men their infusion of green tea, satisfied with giving it the name of "tea." The middle classes, however, are more exacting. They demand that the leaves of some indigenous plants, and the wealthier classes only indulge in the luxury of drinking genuine tea. Even in the tea-producing provinces the use of the beverage is not general. The shrub is grown on the hills, in many instances at altitudes not less than one thousand feet above the adjoining valleys. The inhabitants of these must therefore buy the tea from the growers. The poorer classes prefer to taste the few drops of *coke*, and use hot water, or, what is more common, an infusion of the leaves of other plants growing wild in their fields, such as for instance certain species of *Artemisia* and Ribes. These facts strongly suggest the idea, that the use of tea in China originated in the aversion the Chinese have to drinking cold water, which, in its turn, may have arisen from a natural aversion to drinking water. It is true that they have no other water to drink than such as has been flowing over rice-fields, and is rendered unhealthy by the quantity of putrid organic matter it has taken up. To drink boiled water and to improve it by boiling it with a few sun-dried leaves is, therefore, probably a very old practice, until, finally, among the various leaves used, those of the tea-plant were found superior to others. The poorer classes, however, in the interior, treated the physical wants not originally associated with the use of either cold or hot water.

The conditions for the successful growth of the tea-plant are not yet well understood, but it must appear to a casual observer that its cultivation throughout the regions of the Nan-shan is capable of an almost boundless increase.

The same remark applied to the cultivation of the mulberry tree and the rearing of the silk worm. The bulk of the silk which is exported from China comes from the valleys and plains situated between the extreme north-eastern outliers of the Nan-shan, in Kiangnan and Chekiang. I understand that the means for extending this important branch of industry are at the hands of some high Chinese functionaries. The production of silk could probably be considerably enhanced, both in China and Japan, if the inhabitants of the two countries could interchange their experiences. It is a fact worthy of note that, notwithstanding an apparent similarity of climate, the conditions under which the mulberry tree is planted in either country are quite different. In China it is grown exclusively on alluvial soil, while in Japan it is not at all cultivated on that soil, but altogether on elevated ground, chiefly on certain terraces made up, in the main, of layers of pebbles, into which the present rivers are cut to the depth of several hundred feet. They are very extensive in those places where large rivers have their sources and extend far into the hills. The hills are then separated by a broad terrace from the alluvial soil of the valley. Following any one of those rivers towards its source, we find it accompanied on either side by a strip of elevated ground, varying in width and which is the continuation of the terrace below. On all this terrace ground the mulberry tree is cultivated. In Japan, the sources of the rivers are at an altitude of 400 and 500 feet above the level of the sea. I did not see the mulberry tree planted in China at elevations exceeding a few hundred feet above the sea, and then only on bottom lands.

* The following portion should properly have had priority to that which appears on the 11th page, but the Author bringing it forward delayed.

will not produce the desired results as rapidly as the other methods of fertilization. The soil, as all the agriculturists of this country are well aware, is not rich, though of paramount importance to the natives, is of trifling interest as regards foreign commerce. It would make up a long list if its great variety were to be exhausted. Of all the grain, vegetables, pulse, textile fibres and fruit trees peculiar to sub-tropical and temperate climates, the Chinese have a large number and these would be more numerous if the soil were richer. The principal crops raised by other kinds, peculiar partly to the Nanseman, and partly to eastern Asia in general. The staple of the valleys and fertile portions of the hillside is rice. The more remote provinces produce a superabundance of rice, and in these provinces, where the soil is rich, it, others must make up a deficiency by importation. The rice of the latter could be favoured by irrigation, and it probably be largely in favour of the Nanseman, as it sends considerable quantities of rice to the northern provinces. On the rice grounds and level tracts in general, re-planted, besides sugar, chiefly in Kwangseung, tobacco; the most reputed of which grows in Fokien; several sorts of hemp, and *Mossanne* and *Manilla* hemp, and several plants of the *Manilla* oil, chiefly the groundnut and *Manilla*; others from which indigo is made; variety of pulse, among which is the soybean; a number of plants with farinaceous tubers; wheat and other sorts of grain. Cotton, although largely grown in the Nanseman, is nowhere planted in the mountainous regions, and both of raw cotton and of the cotton fabrics, are imported from those great cotton-producing districts in Chokiang, Kiangsu, Nankai, Hupé and northern Szechuan, which are situated along the northern and northern confines of the Nanseman, and branches of which spread far in between the ranges of hills. The cotton is planted on alluvial ground. I need only refer to the great variety of fruit which the southern ports are sending to those of the north, a trade which promises to assume gigantic proportions. The mulberry tree, which is planted on level ground, is generally distributed in the Nanseman, but grows most plentifully in the mountainous regions. It is almost exclusively met with in the groves of trees which adorn the villages. It is cultivated only in the northern portion of the Nanseman.

Of hillside not fitted for irrigation, a very limited use is made. I believe that not more than one-third of their area is under cultivation. The remainder is left to nature, and is derived from that small portion of ground. Besides the tung oil tree, the tea oil shrub and the camellia tree are cultivated and

yield valuable produce. Of grain there are only to be mentioned kaoliang and maize; the sweet potato is cultivated up to considerable altitude.

The rest of the hillsides, excepting still a few sections of pine and bamboo, is a wilderness. This term must indeed be applied to at least two-thirds of the area of the Nanshan; but probably to a larger proportion. It is to this circumstance chiefly, that is owing the great beauty of scenery in the southeastern provinces. The hills are clad in verdure from the base to the top, and are studded all around with the exception of Japan, is there such a superabundance of beautiful flowers, such a luxurious variety of foliage, and such a number of plants emitting delicious fragrance either from leaves or from flowers. There is probably not a spot left in the whole extent of the Nanshan where nature is not at work to move on and create a new and larger life. But wherever groves of these are large, and they are quite extensive in places distant from navigation—and vegetation has been allowed to develop unpunished for a number of years, there is an intense beauty of scenery.

There is a free communism in China as regards the use of the hillsides. The people express it, the property of the Huang-ti, who allows the inhabitants to make unrestricted use of them. The con-

tractable. In the few places where large trees do still exist, they are being rapidly cut down; that portion of a tree which is required for building or for rafting down a stream is then taken away, and the rest left to decay. A certain possessory right is granted to every man who undertakes to cultivate any portion of a hillside. But the knowledge of how to grow silk is in very few hands, and no success would be obtained if nature was not so prolific. The plantations of pine trees are allowed to grow from ten to fifteen years, then they are cut down and the ground is replanted.

The produce from the animal kingdom, if silk is excepted, is almost nil in the Nanshan. Buffalo, common cattle and pigs, are the only quadrupeds reared generally through the country. Wild animals are very scarce, with the exception of the wild bear in the regions devastated by the rebels.

If we now consider the vast area of the Nanshan in regard to its mineral resources, the most striking feature is the complete absence (as far as my knowledge extends) of any mining for metals other than iron. The Chinese know how to find metalliferous deposits, and they mine them in those cases when profits are conspicuous. We must therefore conclude, that valuable deposits of copper, lead, silver or gold do not exist in the Nanshan, at least not within any reach of the Chinese. A surprising fact is also ascertained that the country is almost entirely without any of those metallic minerals which are so essential to the various arts of Japan, and which of several other metals, occurring in sandstones of the same age, with those taking part in the structure, not only of the axial range, but largely in that of many of the lateral ranges of the Nanshan. In the second place, some of those conditions with which the occurrence of metalliferous deposits is usually associated, namely, the presence of a certain amount of sedimentary rocks, or of eruptive masses of granitic, dioritic and porphyritic rocks, exist largely in the southeastern provinces of China, and in a degree not surpassed in Japan.

SHANGHAI.
(N. O. Daily News.)

The Taotai has lately got two new proclamations, one for a Lottery, and another forbidding the country people to fill bullocks used, or mired, for purposes of agriculture.

It is curious to find how closely the organization of "charping" in Shanghai, mentioned in the preceding article, corresponds to the practice in the Foreign Settlements and a metropolitan with much of the interest, and unfortunately many of the dangers, that a man from the country would find in London. I have just returned from a trip, attending a visit to the Settlements, and, while on my way, in the outskirts, several native Chinamen were distinguished appearances made him stop aside to permit them to pass.

On the way, I was told that one of the party intended to discover that he had lost a bundle of keys, and it was suggested that perhaps the countryman had picked them up. Disregarding his protestations, they searched the man, and he declared to resemble one of the misanthropic lot. The search enabled them to discover also that the countryman was possessed of \$50, on which modest sum they made a small "charping" arrangement to a townshop was suggested, to clear up the difficulty regarding the keys, the sharpers retaining the dollars till this was done. After a time they were freed, but the man, who had stated that he had lost what he supposed was his money, but who was really a sharp, found that the three large cash had been substituted. The victimhood had of course promptly disappeared, and the sharpers, who had been waiting for his loss, and was advised by a shopkeeper to go

do not know where to go, and if he did get
his three cash would not be enough even
to see the gatekeeper, much less to bribe his
way into the presence of the high official, and
if he could not speak foreign language, the
gatekeeper volunteered to accompany him how-
ever, assuring him at the same time assist-
ance would be given without any of the paltry
bribe peculiar to Chinese yamen, and
the man appeared at the police station, the
other was gone into, and the result is
known to infest Shanghai in con-
siderable numbers, and no doubt victims
urgently suffer, who like the present one, are
entirely unacquainted with the language. These
men know how to go about getting redress. The
Chinese runners as is usual, wink at the practices
of a share of the spoil. The Chinese of the
Government, however, thoroughly appreciate the
fact, and are determined to do the utmost
of property without having to submit
to extortion in the process.

HUMAN.
(Ibid.)

A few days ago, we called attention to a
circular from a Government describing the state
of anarchy that prevails in Human. Another
circular to-day describes a series of outrages,
and a case of official corruption, that would
be almost impossible in a country professing to
be governed by laws, and at the same time in the
most civilized country of the world!

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The P. & O. steamer *Oreos*, Capt. Tom-
linson, arrived this morning with the English
mail from 11th August. The following tele-
grams are from the *Ceylon* Observer:—

LONDON, 25th August.

M. Roumeau, in replying to the representa-
tions of Walsbree, declared league deliverable
to Alsace and Lorraine illegal under dissolving.

The difference continues between M. Thiers
and the majority of the National Assembly on
the question of the immediate dissolution of
the National Government.

The war was discussed yesterday.

The Assembly adopted by a large majority
the amendment of M. Ducrot that the Garde
be dissolved in the Communes with the least
delay.

Her Majesty the Queen is much better.

The conservative candidate has been elected
for East Surrey.

BERLIN, 25th August.

Semi-official journals publish articles stating
that the doubtful attitude assumed by the
French Assembly towards M. Thiers diminishes
the confidence Germany reposed in France for

The *New Kreuz Gazette* confirms the statement that another meeting between the Emperors of Austria and Germany will probably be heard of at Salzburg on the twentieth September. It is asserted that after the basis has been established at Gastien for the relations regarding the attitude to be assumed by Germany and Austria, Italy will adhere to the same basis.

The demonstration which it was proposed to hold in France on the fourth September has been forbidden.

LONDON, 28th August.

Candidates for the Indian Civil Service examination must henceforth show by official certificates, real age with limits.

LONDON, 30th August.

Captain Vivian is appointed under-secretary of State for War, vice Sir Edward Lygard, appointed first Commissioner for the settlement of purchase claims.

LONDON, 30th August.

The *New Cross Gazette* states that it is possible the Emperor of Austria will visit the Emperor William on the Rhine in November.

The *National Gazette* announces the appointment of M. A. de Mevius, extraordinary at Turin in the place of M. Waldersee.

LONDON, 29th September.

The *Great Gazette* states that it has been arranged at Greenwich that the Emperor of Austria will visit St. Petersburg, tending to prepare for direct colloquial explanations between Austria and Russia.

[illegible]

